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RCE//636#

PTO/SB/30 (08/00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 06510031

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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000,
provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application
filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number	09/615,854
Filing Date	July 14, 2000
Examiner Name	C.X. Quian
First Named Inventor	Keith L. Black
Group Art Unit	1636
Attorney Docket Number	BBB

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

- a. ☐ Previously submitted
 - i ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on _____
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
 - ii ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
 - iii ☐ Other _____
- b. ☒ Enclosed
 - i ☒ Amendment/Reply
 - ii ☒ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - iii ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - iv ☐ Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees

The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to
Deposit Account No. 11-0980
 - i ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) 01/27/2004 AMONDAF1 00000005 110980 09615854
 - ii ☒ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.117) 01 FC:2801 385.00 OP
 - iii ☐ Other _____
- b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ 1000 enclosed
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Sherry M. Knowles	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	33,052
Signature	<i>Sherry Knowles</i>	Date	1/20/2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark

Office on:

Name (Print/Type)	Rebecca Kaufman	Date	January 20, 2004
Signature	<i>Rebecca Kaufman</i>		



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Keith L. Black and Nagendra S. Ningaraj
Appln. No. : 09/615,854
Filed : July 14, 2000
T.C/A.U. : 1636
Examiner : C.X. Quian
Customer No. : 20786

Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop RCE
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 223 13-1450

January 20, 2004

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R § 1.114

Sir:

In connection with the accompanying Request for Continued Examination (RCE), please enter the following amendments. Please also re-examine and reconsider the application in view of these amendments and appended remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 18 of this paper.